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(54) OPERATING CONDITION DETERMINING DEVICE
OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

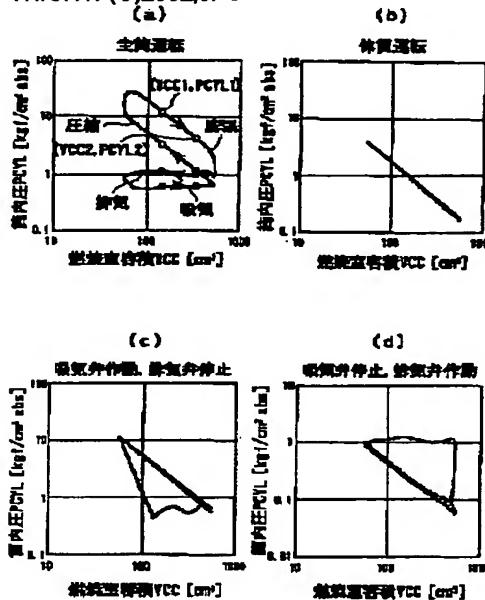
(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an operating condition determining device of an internal combustion engine capable of simply, quickly and with good accuracy determining the operating condition of an internal combustion engine represented by an opening and closing state of an intake and exhaust valve.

SOLUTION: In this operating condition determining device of an internal combustion engine, the operating condition of an internal combustion engine 1 for performing one cycle of combustion by a plurality of operating strokes in a combustion chamber is determined according to the opening and closing of an intake valve 3a and an exhaust valve 3b depending on the rotation of a crankshaft 12. The device is provided with a cylinder pressure detecting means 11 for detecting the pressure PCYL1, 2 in a plurality of cylinders at a plurality of crank angles in the same operation stroke, a combustion chamber volume calculating means 5 for calculating the combustion chamber volumes VCC1, VCC2 corresponding to the plurality of crank angles, a pressure determining index calculating means 5 for calculating a pressure determining index m showing the change state of the cylinder pressure PCYL in the operation stroke according to the cylinder pressure

PCYL1, PCYL2 and the combustion chamber volume VCC1, 2, and an operating condition determining means 5 for determining the operating state of the internal combustion engine 1 according to a pressure determining index m.

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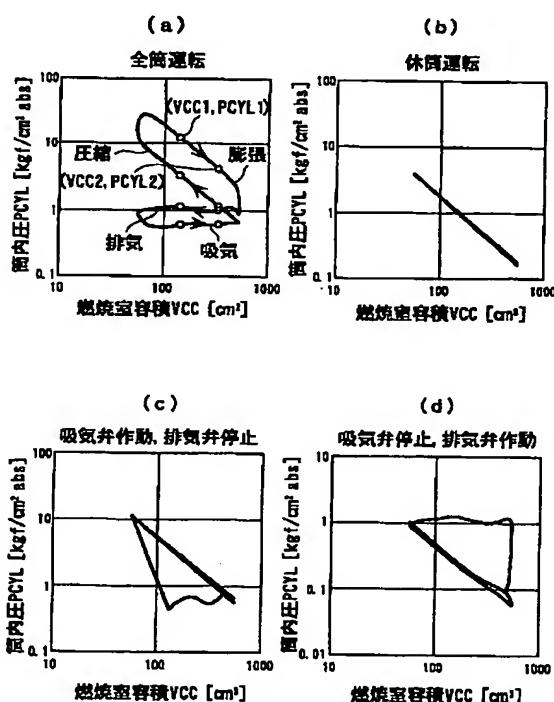
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(54)【発明の名称】 内燃機関の作動状態判定装置

(57)【要約】

【課題】 吸排気弁の開閉状態を代表とする内燃機関の作動状態を、簡便、迅速かつ精度良く判定することができる内燃機関の作動状態判定装置を提供する。

【解決手段】 クランク軸1 2の回転に従った吸気弁3 aおよび排気弁3 bの開閉によって、燃焼室内で複数の作動行程により1サイクルの燃焼を行う内燃機関1の作動状態を判定する内燃機関の作動状態判定装置であって、同一の作動行程内の複数のクランク角度で、複数の筒内圧PCYL 1、2を検出する筒内圧検出手段1 1と、複数のクランク角度に対応する燃焼室容積VCC 1、VCC 2を算出する燃焼室容積算出手段5と、筒内圧PCYL 1、PCYL 2および燃焼室容積VCC 1、2に基づいて、作動行程における筒内圧PCYLの変化状態を表す圧力判定指數mを算出する圧力判定指數算出手段5と、圧力判定指數mに基づいて内燃機関1の作動状態を判定する作動状態判定手段5と、を備えている。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 クランク軸の回転に従った吸気弁および排気弁の開閉によって、燃焼室内で複数の作動行程により1サイクルの燃焼を行う内燃機関の作動状態を判定する内燃機関の作動状態判定装置であって、同一の作動行程内の互いに異なる複数のクランク角度で、前記燃焼室の圧力である複数の筒内圧をそれぞれ検出する筒内圧検出手段と、前記複数のクランク角度に対応する前記燃焼室の複数の容積を算出する燃焼室容積算出手段と、前記検出された複数の筒内圧および前記算出された複数の燃焼室容積に基づいて、当該作動行程における前記筒内圧の変化状態を表す圧力判定指數を算出する圧力判定指數算出手段と、当該算出された圧力判定指數に基づいて前記内燃機関の作動状態を判定する作動状態判定手段と、を備えていることを特徴とする内燃機関の作動状態判定装置。

【請求項2】 前記作動状態判定手段により判定される前記作動状態が、前記吸気弁および前記排気弁の開閉状態であることを特徴とする、請求項1に記載の内燃機関の作動状態判定装置。

【請求項3】 前記内燃機関が、複数の気筒と、運転状態に応じて当該複数の気筒のうちの一部の気筒の前記吸気弁の作動を少なくとも停止することにより、当該一部の気筒の運転を休止する休筒機構と、を備えていることを特徴とする、請求項2に記載の内燃機関の作動状態判定装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】 本発明は、内燃機関の作動状態、特に吸気弁および排気弁の開閉状態を判定する内燃機関の作動状態判定装置に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】 従来のこの種の判定装置として、例えば特開平6-146937号公報に開示されたものが知られている。この内燃機関は、複数の気筒のうちの一部の気筒を、その吸排気弁の作動を停止することによって休止する休筒機構を備えており、この休筒機構により、一部の気筒を休止する休筒運転モードと、すべての気筒を運転する全筒運転モードとの間で切り換えて運転される。判定装置は、休筒運転モードから全筒運転モードへの切換が完了したか否かを判定するのに用いられている。具体的には、この判定装置では、全筒運転モードに得られるべき吸気管内圧を、エンジン回転数およびスロットル弁開度に応じて判定マップ値として設定しておくとともに、判定の時点で検出された吸気管内圧と、その時のエンジン回転数およびスロットル弁開度に対応する判定マップ値とを比較することによって、全筒運転モードへの切換が完了したかが判定される。切換未完と判定

した場合には、燃焼制御が休筒運転モード用に維持される。

【0003】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】 しかし、上述した従来の判定装置は、全筒運転モードと休筒運転モードの切換判定を、吸気弁の作動・停止状態に応じた吸気管内の圧力変化をパラメータとして行うものであって、吸気管の容積の分、その圧力変化が鈍いため、判定の応答性が良くないという問題がある。また、吸気管内圧は、吸気弁の作動・停止状態だけで一義的に定まるものではなく、内燃機関の回転数やスロットル弁開度によって大きく変化するため、従来の判定装置に見られるように、その判定マップ値を回転数およびスロットル弁開度に応じて持ち替えて設定する必要があり、その設定が煩雑である。また、そのような判定マップ値の詳細設定を行ったとしても、例えばスロットル弁開度が大きい高負荷領域では、全筒運転モードと休筒運転モードの間で、同一のスロットル弁開度に対する吸気管内圧の差が小さいため、判定の精度が低く、誤判定を生じるおそれがある。

【0004】 本発明は、このような課題を解決するためになされたものであり、吸排気弁の開閉状態を代表とする内燃機関の作動状態を、簡便、迅速かつ精度良く判定することができる内燃機関の作動状態判定装置を提供することを目的とする。

【0005】

【課題を解決するための手段】 この目的を達成するため、請求項1に係る発明は、クランク軸1・2の回転に従った吸気弁3aおよび排気弁3bの開閉によって、燃焼室内で複数の作動行程により1サイクルの燃焼を行う内燃機関1の作動状態を判定する内燃機関の作動状態判定装置であって、同一の作動行程内の互いに異なる複数のクランク角度で、燃焼室の圧力である複数の筒内圧PCYL1、PCYL2をそれぞれ検出する筒内圧検出手段（（実施形態における（以下、本項において同じ）筒内圧センサ11）と、前記複数のクランク角度に対応する燃焼室の複数の容積VCC1、VCC2を算出する燃焼室容積算出手段（ECU5）と、検出された複数の筒内圧PCYL1、PCYL2および算出された複数の燃焼室容積VCC1、VCC2に基づいて、作動行程における筒内圧PCYLの変化状態を表す圧力判定指數（ボリトローブ指數m）を算出する圧力判定指數算出手段（ECU5）と、算出された圧力判定指數に基づいて内燃機関1の作動状態を判定する作動状態判定手段（ECU5）と、を備えていることを特徴とする。

【0006】 この内燃機関の作動状態判定装置によれば、1燃焼サイクルの同一の作動行程内の互いに異なる複数のクランク角度でそれぞれ筒内圧を検出するとともに、複数のクランク角に対応する燃焼室容積をそれぞれ算出する。そして、これらの複数の筒内圧および燃焼室容積に基づいて、その作動行程における筒内圧の変化状

態を表す圧力判定指數を算出し、算出された圧力判定指數に基づいて内燃機関の作動状態を判定する。

【0007】筒内圧は、吸気弁および排気弁の開閉状態を代表とする内燃機関の作動状態に応じ、一定のルールに従って変化する。例えば、吸気弁および排気弁がともに閉じる圧縮行程や膨張行程では、燃焼室が閉鎖されることによって、筒内圧は、クランク角度で定まる燃焼室容積に応じて変化する。一方、吸気弁または排気弁が開く吸気行程や排気行程では、燃焼室が開放されることによって、筒内圧は、燃焼室容積にかかわらずほぼ一定の値をとる。したがって、複数の筒内圧と燃焼室容積に基づいて上記のように算出された圧力判定指數は、内燃機関の作動状態を良好に反映するので、この圧力判定指數によって、内燃機関の作動状態を適切に判定することができる。また、筒内圧の変化状態を直接、検出するので、判定を応答性良く迅速に行うことができる。さらに、筒内圧の変化状態には、エンジン回転数やスロットル弁開度は直接的には影響しないので、圧力判定指數に基づく判定を、例えばエンジン回転数やスロットル弁開度にかかわらない一定の判定値を用いて簡便に行うことなどが可能になるとともに、スロットル弁開度が大きな高負荷領域においても、判定を精度良く行うことができる。

簡便、迅速かつ精度良く行うことができる。

【0012】

【発明の実施の形態】以下、図面を参照しながら、本発明の好ましい実施形態を詳細に説明する。図1は、本実施形態による判定装置、およびこれを適用した内燃機関の概略構成を示している。

【0013】同図に示すように、この内燃機関（以下「エンジン」という）1は、例えばV型6気筒タイプのDOHCガソリンエンジンであり、その右バンク2Rに

- 10 第1～第3の3つの気筒3（#1～#3）が、左バンク2Lに第4～第6の3つの気筒3（#4～#6）が、それぞれ設けられている。右バンク2Rには、後述する休筒運転モードによる運転を実行するための休筒機構4が設けられている。なお、図1では、各気筒3に共通して設けられる構成要素については、図面の煩雑化を避けるために、第1気筒3（#1）にのみ参照符号を付している。

【0014】この休筒機構4は、油路6a、6bを介して油圧ポンプ（図示せず）に接続されている。また、油

- 20 圧ポンプと休筒機構4の間には、吸気弁用および排気弁用の電磁弁7a、7bが配置されている。これらの電磁弁7a、7bはいずれも、常閉型のもので、後述するECU5に電気的に接続されていて、ECU5からの駆動信号によりON/OFF制御されることによって、油路6a、6bをそれぞれ開閉する。すなわち、休筒運転モードのときには、電磁弁7a、7bがいずれもONされることで、油路6a、6bを開放することによって、休筒機構4に油圧ポンプから油圧が供給される。これにより、右バンク2Rの第1～第3気筒3（#1～#3）において、吸気弁3aと吸気カム（図示せず）の間、および排気弁3aと排気カム（図示せず）の間がそれぞれ遮断されることによって、各気筒3の吸気弁3aおよび排気弁3bが停止状態（閉鎖状態）になり、エンジン1は休筒運転モードで運転される。

【0015】一方、全筒運転モードのときには、上記とは逆に、電磁弁7a、7bがともにOFFされ、油路6a、6bを閉鎖することによって、油圧ポンプから休筒機構4への油圧の供給が停止される。これにより、右バンク2Rの第1～第3気筒3（#1～#3）において、

- 40 吸気弁3aと吸気カムの間、および排気弁3bと排気カムの間の遮断状態が解除されることで、各気筒3の吸気弁3aおよび排気弁3bが可動状態になる。また、これらの吸気カムおよび排気カムを設けたカム軸は、タイミングチェーン（とともに図示せず）を介してクランク軸12に連結されており、クランク軸12の回転に従い、所定のクランク角度のタイミングで吸気弁3aおよび排気弁3bを開閉することによって、吸気・圧縮・膨張・排気の4つの作動行程による1サイクルの燃焼が、気筒3の燃焼室（図示せず）で行われる。

- 50 【0016】また、各気筒3（#1～#6）には、吸気

マニホールド8aを介して吸気管8が接続されている。吸気マニホールド8aの各分岐部8bには、各気筒3の吸気ポート(図示せず)に臨むように、インジェクタ9が取り付けられている。これらのインジェクタ9の作動および燃料噴射時間TOUTは、ECU5からの駆動信号によって制御され、全筒運転モードのときには、すべてのインジェクタ9が作動し、燃料を各吸気ポートに向けて噴射する。一方、休筒運転モードのときには、右バンク2Rの3つのインジェクタ9による燃料噴射が停止される。

【0017】以上のように、休筒運転モード時には、吸気弁3aおよび排気弁3bの停止と、インジェクタ9の燃料噴射の停止によって、右バンク2Rの3つの第1～第3の気筒3(#1～#3)が休止される。一方、全筒運転モードのときには、6つの気筒3(#1～#6)がすべて運転されるとともに、これらが#1→#5→#3→#6→#2→#4の順に運転される。

【0018】また、各気筒3には、点火プラグ10および筒内圧センサ11筒内圧検出手段が設けられている。各点火プラグ10は、ディストリビュータ(図示せず)を介してECU5に接続されており、その点火時期IGLOGは、ECU5からの駆動信号によって制御される。また、各筒内圧センサ11は、例えば圧電素子タイプのものであり、気筒3の燃焼室(図示せず)内の圧力である筒内圧PCYLを検出し、その検出信号をECU5に送る。

【0019】また、クランク軸12の周囲には、TDCセンサ13および気筒判別センサ14が取り付けられている。TDCセンサ13は、エンジン1の各気筒の吸入行程開始時の上死点(TDC)よりも所定角度前のクランク角度位置で、TDC信号パルスを出力する。ECU5は、このTDC信号パルスから、エンジン回転数NEを算出する。また、気筒判別センサ14は、特定の気筒の所定のクランク角度位置で気筒判別信号パルスCYLを出力するものであり、その信号パルスCYLもECU5に送られる。

【0020】さらに、ECU5には、吸気管2のスロットル弁(図示せず)よりも下流側に設けた吸気管内絶対圧センサ15から、吸気管内絶対圧PBAを表す検出信号が、エンジン1の本体に設けたエンジン水温センサ16から、エンジン1の本体内を循環する冷却水の温度であるエンジン水温TWを表す検出信号が、それぞれ入力*

$$PCYL1 \cdot VCC1^m = PCYL2 \cdot VCC2^m \quad \dots \quad (1)$$

ここで、値mは、各作動行程における状態変化を表すボリトローブ(体積)指数(圧力判定指數)である。式※

$$(VCC1/VCC2)^m = PCYL2/PCYL1 \quad \dots \quad (1)'$$

$$m = \log(vcc1/vcc2)PCYL2/PCYL1 \quad \dots \quad (2)$$

【0025】次いで、この式(2)に、各作動行程で求めた第1および第2筒内圧PCYL1、PCYL2、第1および第2燃焼室容積VCC1、VCC2を適用する

*される。

【0021】ECU5は、本実施形態において、燃焼室容積算出手段、圧力判定指數算出手段および作動状態判定手段を構成するものである。ECU5は、I/Oインターフェース、CPU、RAMおよびROM(いずれも図示せず)などからなるマイクロコンピュータで構成されている。前述した筒内圧センサ11などの各種センサからの検出信号はそれぞれ、I/OインターフェースでA/D変換や整形がなされた後、CPUに入力される。

10 CPUは、これらの検出信号に基づき、ROMに予め記憶された制御プログラムなどに従って、エンジン1の運転状態を判別し、その結果に基づいて、各種の制御処理を行う。

【0022】具体的には、CPUは、エンジン1の運転を、全筒運転モードと休筒運転モードのいずれにより行うかを決定するとともに、その結果に基づいて電磁弁7a、7bに駆動信号を出力することによって、休筒機構4を制御し、全筒運転モードと休筒運転モードの切換を行う。また、筒内圧センサ11の検出信号に応じ、後述

20 するようにして、吸気弁3aおよび排気弁3bの実際の開閉状態を判定する。さらに、CPUは、エンジン1の運転状態、決定した運転モード、さらには吸気弁3aおよび排気弁3bの開閉状態などに応じて、インジェクタ9の燃料噴射時間TOUTおよび点火プラグ10の点火時期IGLOGを演算し、その結果に基づく駆動信号を出力する。

【0023】以下、図2～図4を参照しながら、ECU5で実行される吸気弁3aおよび排気弁3bの開閉状態の判定処理について説明する。この判定処理では、図2

30 (a)に示すように、1燃焼サイクルの各作動行程において、筒内圧センサ11により筒内圧PCYLを所定の2つのクランク角度でサンプリングし、それぞれ第1および第2筒内圧PCYL1、PCYL2として記憶する。また、これら2つのクランク軸に対応する燃焼室の容積を第1および第2燃焼室容積VCC1、VCC2として算出する(同図(a)には膨張行程についてのみ示す)。

【0024】次いで、各作動行程での状態変化がボリトローブ変化とみなせることから、上記のようにして求めた第1および第2筒内圧PCYL1、PCYL2と、第1および第2燃焼室容積VCC1、VCC2との間に、各作動行程において次の関係式(1)が成立立つ。

$$PCYL1 \cdot VCC1^m = PCYL2 \cdot VCC2^m \quad \dots \quad (1)$$

※(1)は次式(1)'のように変形でき、この式

(1)'の両辺の対数をとると、式(2)が成立立つ。

$$(VCC1/VCC2)^m = PCYL2/PCYL1 \quad \dots \quad (1)'$$

$$m = \log(vcc1/vcc2)PCYL2/PCYL1 \quad \dots \quad (2)$$

ことによって、各作動行程のボリトローブ指數mを算出する。このボリトローブ指數mのとり得る範囲を、図2を参照して運転モードごとに述べると、次のとおりであ

る。

a. 全筒運転モード（吸気弁および排気弁作動）

図2(a)に示すように、圧縮行程および膨張行程では、吸気弁3aおよび排気弁3bがともに閉じていて、燃焼室が閉鎖されていることで、ポリトローブ指数mの範囲は、通常とり得る範囲（例えば $1.2 \leq m \leq 1.4$ ）に一致する。一方、吸気行程および排気行程では、吸気弁3aまたは排気弁3bが開いていることで、筒内圧PCYLが吸気管8または排気管内の圧力に則したほぼ一定の圧力を示すため、ポリトローブ指数m=0になる。

b. 休筒運転モード（吸気弁および排気弁停止）

図2(b)に示すように、吸気弁3aおよび排気弁3bが停止するため、吸気・圧縮・膨張・排気のいずれの作動行程においても、筒内圧PCYLが、休筒運転モード前に燃焼室内に存在していた作動ガスの圧縮・膨張の繰返しに従って変化することから、 $1.2 \leq m \leq 1.4$ になる。

c. 吸気弁作動および排気弁停止

この状態は、例えば休筒運転モード指示に対して吸気弁3aが故障している場合、あるいは全筒運転モード指示に対して排気弁3bが故障している場合が該当する。この場合には、図2(c)に示すように、吸気行程でのみ、筒内圧PCYLがほぼ一定となることから、 $m=0$ になるとともに、他の作動行程では $1.2 \leq m \leq 1.4$ になる。

d. 排気弁作動および吸気弁停止

この状態は、上記cの場合とは逆に、例えば休筒運転モード指示に対して排気弁3bが故障している場合、あるいは全筒運転モード指示に対して吸気弁3aが故障している場合が該当し、図2(d)に示すように、排気行程でのみ $m=0$ になるとともに、他の作動行程では $1.2 \leq m \leq 1.4$ になる。

【0026】以上の吸・排気弁3a、3bの4つの作動パターンa～dにおけるポリトローブ指数mの挙動をまとめると、図3および図4に示すとおりである。すなわち、 $m=0$ （または $1.2 \leq m \leq 1.4$ ）になる作動行程の組み合わせは、作動パターンa～d間ですべて異なる。したがって、この判定処理では、ポリトローブ指数mの大小を判定可能なしきい値A（例えば1.0）をあらかじめ設定するとともに、4つの作動行程で算出されたポリトローブ指数mをしきい値Aとそれぞれ比較し、その比較結果の組み合わせによって、吸・排気弁3a、3bの作動パターンを判定している。

【0027】これにより、吸・排気弁3a、3bの作動パターンが、パターンa～dのいずれであるかを適切に判定することができる。例えば、 $m < A$ （図4の二重枠欄）が吸気行程および排気行程で成立している場合は、吸・排気弁3a、3bの作動パターンが全筒運転モードであると判定できる。なお、前述の説明では、作動

パターンc、dを、吸気弁3aまたは排気弁3bが故障している状態として説明したが、休筒運転モードから全筒運転モードへの移行時に吸気弁3aまたは排気弁3bの切換が完了していない状態と判定することもできる。したがって、本実施形態によれば、上記の手法により、全筒運転モードと休筒運転モードの識別、両運転モード間での吸・排気弁3a、3bの切換の完了、および吸・排気弁3a、3bの故障の有無の判定を、適切に行うことができる。

【0028】また、本実施形態によれば、筒内圧PCYLの変化状態から算出したポリトローブ指数mを用いて、吸・排気弁3a、3bの作動パターンを判定するので、吸気管内圧をパラメータとする従来の場合よりも、その判定を応答性良く迅速に行うことができる。さらに、ポリトローブ指数mには、エンジン回転数NEやスロットル弁開度は直接的には影響しないので、ポリトローブ指数mに基づく判定を、実施形態に示したように、一定のしきい値Aを用いて簡便に行うとともに、スロットル弁開度が大きな高負荷領域においても、判定を精度良く行うことができる。そして、以上のように判定された吸・排気弁3a、3bの作動パターンに応じて、燃料噴射時間TOUTや点火時期IGLOGなどを決定することによって、それらの制御の最適化を図ることができる。

【0029】なお、本発明は、説明した実施形態に限定されることなく、種々の態様で実施することができる。例えば、実施形態では、各作動行程において2つのクランク角度で、筒内圧PCYLの検出および燃焼室容積VCCの算出を行っているが、その数を増やしてもよく、

30 その場合、隣り合う2点間でポリトローブ指数mを算出し、それらの平均値を算出するようにしてよい。また、ポリトローブ指数mの大小を判定するしきい値Aとして一定値を採用したが、このしきい値Aを、エンジン1の運転状態を表すパラメータ、例えばエンジン回転数NE、吸気管内絶対圧PBAやエンジン水温TWなどに応じて、切換あるいは補正するようにしてよい。

【0030】また、実施形態は、本発明を休筒機構4を備えたエンジン1に適用した例であるが、本発明を、休筒機構をもたないエンジンの吸・排気弁の故障の判定に

40 適用してもよいことはもちろんである。さらに、実施形態では、エンジン1の作動状態として、吸・排気弁3a、3bの作動パターン（開閉状態）を判定しているが、これに限らず、本実施形態の手法を、エンジン1の他の作動状態の判定に適宜、用いることも可能である。その他、本発明の趣旨の範囲内で、細部の構成を適宜、変更することが可能である。

【0031】

【発明の効果】以上詳述したように、本発明の内燃機関の作動状態判定装置は、吸排気弁の開閉状態を代表とする内燃機関の作動状態を、簡便、迅速かつ精度良く判定

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することができるなどの効果を有する。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の一実施形態による判定装置、およびこれを適用した内燃機関の概略構成を示す図である。

【図2】吸・排気弁の作動状態と筒内圧の変化状態との関係を示す図である。

【図3】エンジンの各作動行程においてポリトロープ指数mがとり得る範囲を吸・排気弁の作動パターンごとに示す図である。

【図4】図3をテーブルとして示す図である。

【符号の説明】

1 内燃機関

3 気筒

3 a 吸気弁

* 3 b 排気弁

4 休筒機構

5 ECU (燃焼室容積算出手段、圧力判定指標算出手段、作動状態判定手段)

11 筒内圧センサ (筒内圧検出手段)

12 クランク軸

PCYL 筒内圧

PCYL 1 第1筒内圧

PCYL 2 第2筒内圧

10 VCC 燃焼室容積

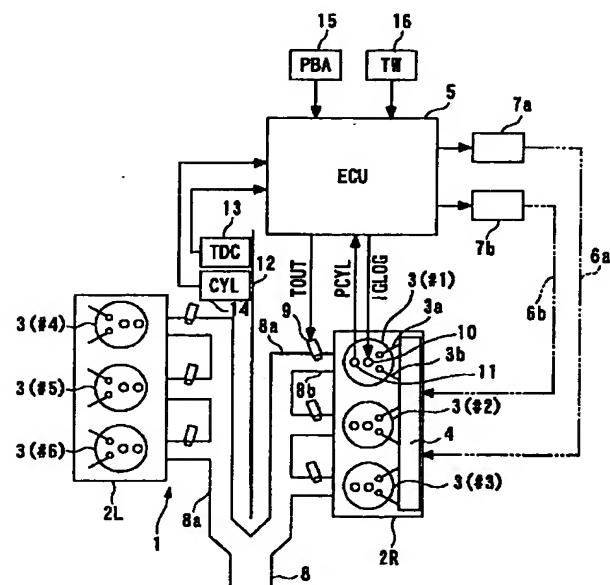
VCC 1 第1燃焼室容積

VCC 2 第2燃焼室容積

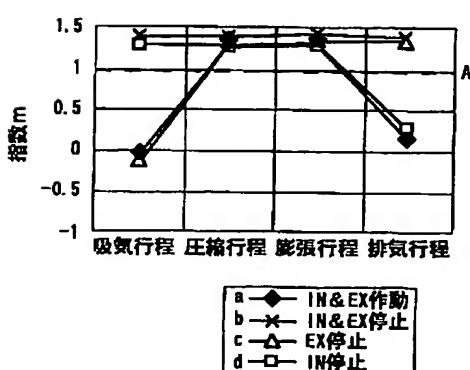
m ポリトロープ指標 (圧力判定指標)

*

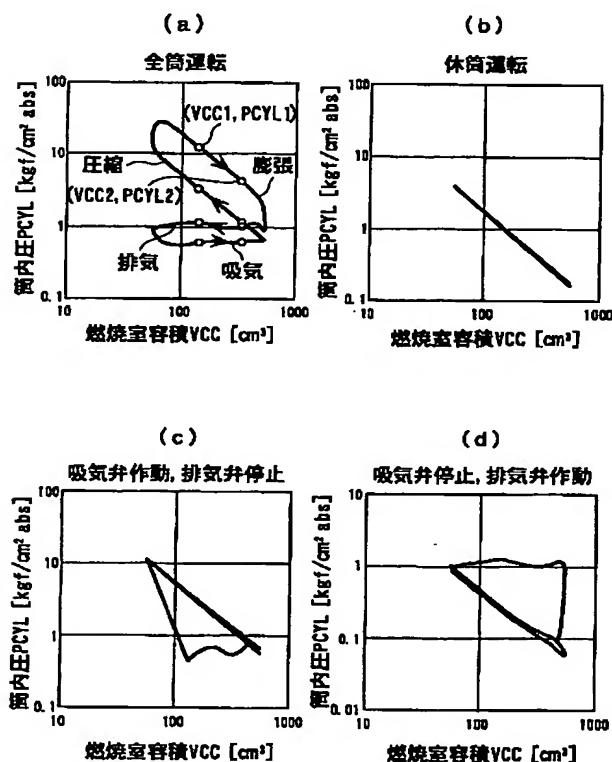
【図1】



【図3】



【図2】



【図4】

	^a 全筒	^b 休筒	^c 吸気弁作動	^d 排気弁作動
吸気弁	作動	停止	作動	停止
排気弁	作動	停止	停止	作動
吸気	$m < A$	$m \geq A$	$m < A$	$m \geq A$
圧縮	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$
膨張	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$
排気	$m < A$	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$	$m < A$

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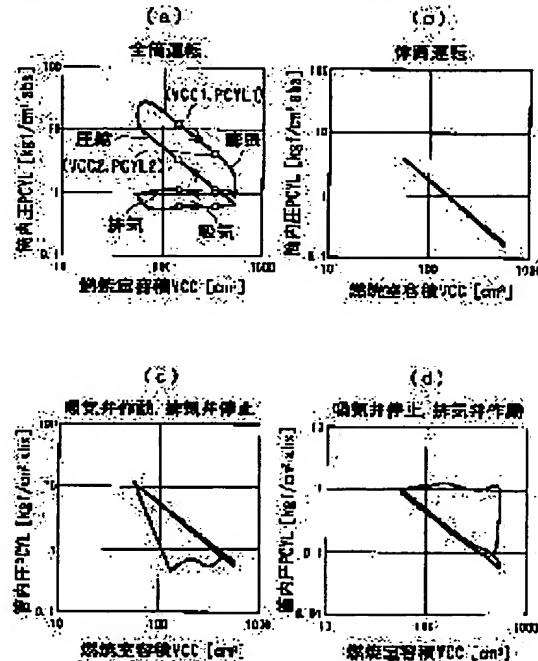
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(54) OPERATING CONDITION DETERMINING DEVICE OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide an operating condition determining device of an internal combustion engine capable of simply, quickly and with good accuracy determining the operating condition of an internal combustion engine represented by an opening and closing state of an intake and exhaust valve.

SOLUTION: In this operating condition determining device of an internal combustion engine, the operating condition of an internal combustion engine 1 for performing one cycle of combustion by a plurality of operating strokes in a combustion chamber is determined according to the opening and closing of an intake valve 3a and an exhaust valve 3b depending on the rotation of a crankshaft 12. The device is provided with a cylinder pressure detecting means 11 for detecting the pressure PCYL1, 2 in a plurality of cylinders at a plurality of crank angles in the same operation stroke, a combustion chamber volume calculating means 5 for calculating the combustion chamber volumes VCC1, VCC2 corresponding to the plurality of crank angles, a pressure determining index calculating means 5 for calculating a pressure determining index m showing the change state of the cylinder pressure PCYL in the operation stroke according to the cylinder pressure PCYL1, PCYL2 and the combustion chamber volume VCC1, 2, and an operating condition determining means 5 for determining the operating state of the internal combustion engine 1 according to a pressure determining index m.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] It is operating state judging equipment of the internal combustion engine which judges the operating state of the internal combustion engine which burns 1 cycle according to two or more actuation strokes by the combustion chamber by closing motion of the inlet valve and exhaust valve according to rotation of a crankshaft. A cylinder internal pressure detection means to detect two or more cylinder internal pressure which is the pressures of said combustion chamber, respectively by whenever [within the same actuation stroke / two or more mutually different crank angle], A volume-of-combustion-chamber calculation means to compute two or more volume of said combustion chamber corresponding to whenever [two or more crank angle], A pressure judging characteristic calculation means to compute the pressure judging characteristic showing the change condition of said cylinder internal pressure in the actuation stroke concerned based on said two or more cylinder internal pressure with which it was detected and said two or more computed volume of combustion chamber, Operating state judging equipment of the internal combustion engine characterized by having an operating state judging means to judge said internal combustion engine's operating state based on the computed pressure judging characteristic concerned.

[Claim 2] Operating state judging equipment of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1 with which said operating state judged by said operating state judging means is characterized by being the switching condition of said inlet valve and said exhaust valve.

[Claim 3] Operating state judging equipment of an internal combustion engine according to claim 2 characterized by said internal combustion engine having two or more gas columns and the **** device in which operation of some gas columns concerned is stopped by suspending actuation of said inlet valve of some gas columns of two or more gas columns concerned at least according to operational status.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the operating state judging equipment of the internal combustion engine which judges the switching condition of an internal combustion engine's operating state especially an inlet valve, and an exhaust valve.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] What was indicated by JP,6-146937,A is known as this conventional kind of judgment equipment. This internal combustion engine has the **** device in which some gas columns of two or more gas columns are stopped by suspending actuation of that induction-exhaust valve, switches according to this **** device between the **** operation mode which stops some gas columns, and all the cylinder operation modes that operate all gas columns, and is operated. Judgment equipment is used for judging whether the change-over to all cylinder operation modes from **** operation mode was completed. With this judgment equipment, while setting up the inlet-pipe internal pressure which should be obtained by all cylinder operation modes as a judgment map value according to whenever [engine-speed and throttle valve-opening], specifically, it is judged by comparing with the judgment map value corresponding to whenever [engine-speed / at that time /, and throttle valve-opening] the inlet-pipe internal pressure detected at the time of a judgment whether the change-over to all cylinder operation modes was completed. a change-over -- when it judges with it being incomplete, a combustion control is maintained for *** operation modes.

[0003]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, the conventional judgment equipment mentioned above performs pressure variation within the inhalation of air [judging / of all cylinder operation modes and **** operation mode / change-over] according to actuation and the idle state of an inlet valve as a parameter, and since the part of the volume of an inlet pipe and its pressure variation are blunt, it has the problem that the responsibility of a judgment is not good. Moreover, since inlet-pipe internal pressure does not become settled uniquely only in actuation and the idle state of an inlet valve and changes with whenever [rotational frequency / of an internal combustion engine / or throttle valve-opening] a lot, according to whenever [rotational frequency and throttle valve-opening], it has the judgment map value again, it needs to set it up, and the setup is complicated [internal pressure] so that conventional judgment equipment may see. Moreover, even if it performs a detail setup of such a judgment map value, for example in the heavy load field where whenever [throttle valve-opening] is large, since the difference of the inlet-pipe internal pressure to whenever [same throttle valve-opening] is small between all cylinder operation modes and **** operation mode, the precision of a judgment is low, and there is a possibility of producing an incorrect judging.

[0004] This invention is made in order to solve such a technical problem, and it aims at offering simplicity and the operating state judging equipment of the internal combustion engine which can judge with a quickly and sufficient precision for the operating state of the internal combustion engine which makes the switching condition of an induction-exhaust valve representation.

[0005]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain this purpose, invention concerning claim 1 By closing motion of inlet-valve 3a according to rotation of a crankshaft 12, and exhaust valve 3b Are operating state judging equipment of the internal combustion engine which judges the operating state of the internal combustion engine 1 which burns 1 cycle according to two or more actuation strokes by the combustion chamber, and by whenever [within the same actuation stroke / two or more mutually different crank angle]

A cylinder internal pressure detection means to detect two or more cylinder internal pressure PCYL1 and PCYL2 which is the pressures of a combustion chamber, respectively (cylinder internal pressure sensor 11 in an operation gestalt (in the following and this paragraph, it is the same)) () A volume-of-combustion-chamber calculation means to compute two or more volume VCC1 and VCC2 of the combustion chamber corresponding to whenever [two or more crank angle] (ECU5), It is based on two or more cylinder internal pressure PCYL1 and PCYL2 with which it was detected, and two or more computed volume of combustion chamber VCC1 and VCC2. A pressure judging characteristic calculation means to compute the pressure judging characteristic (polytropic-index m) showing the change condition of the cylinder internal pressure PCYL in an actuation stroke (ECU5), It is characterized by having an operating state judging means (ECU5) to judge an internal combustion engine's 1 operating state based on the computed pressure judging characteristic.

[0006] While detecting cylinder internal pressure, respectively by whenever [within the same actuation stroke of 1 combustion cycle / two or more mutually different crank angle] according to this internal combustion engine's operating state judging equipment, the volume of combustion chamber corresponding to two or more crank angles is computed, respectively. And based on two or more of such cylinder internal pressure and volume of combustion chamber, the pressure judging characteristic showing the change condition of the cylinder internal pressure in the actuation stroke is computed, and an internal combustion engine's operating state is judged based on the computed pressure judging characteristic.

[0007] Cylinder internal pressure changes according to the fixed Ruhr according to the operating state of the internal combustion engine which makes representation the switching condition of an inlet valve and an exhaust valve. For example, cylinder internal pressure changes by closing a combustion chamber according to the volume of combustion chamber which becomes settled in whenever [crank angle] like the compression stroke which both an inlet valve and an exhaust valve close, or an expansion line. On the other hand, cylinder internal pressure takes an almost fixed value irrespective of volume of combustion chamber by opening a combustion chamber wide like the intake stroke which an inlet valve or an exhaust valve opens, or an exhaust air line. Therefore, since the pressure judging characteristic computed as mentioned above based on two or more cylinder internal pressure and volume of combustion chamber reflects an internal combustion engine's operating state good, it can judge an internal combustion engine's operating state appropriately with this pressure judging characteristic. Moreover, since the change condition of cylinder internal pressure is detected directly, it can judge with sufficient responsibility quickly.

Furthermore, in the change condition of cylinder internal pressure, since whenever [engine-speed or throttle valve-opening] does not influence directly, while becoming possible to perform the judgment based on a pressure judging characteristic simple using the fixed decision value which is not concerned with whenever [engine-speed or throttle valve-opening], whenever [throttle valve-opening] can judge with a sufficient precision also in a big heavy load field. And according to an internal combustion engine's operating state judged as mentioned above, it becomes possible by controlling the fuel amount of supply, ignition timing, etc. to attain optimization of those control.

[0008] Invention concerning claim 2 is characterized by the operating state judged by the operating state judging means being a switching condition (actuation pattern) of inlet-valve 3a and exhaust valve 3b in the operating state judging equipment of the internal combustion engine of claim 1.

[0009] According to this configuration, the switching condition of an inlet valve and an exhaust valve can be appropriately judged as an internal combustion engine's operating state by the judgment of the operating state judging means based on a pressure judging characteristic. Not only completion of a change-over of actuation/halt of the inlet valve between all the cylinder operation modes and **** operation modes in the internal combustion engine having a **** device but failure of the inlet valve of the usual internal combustion engine without a **** device or an exhaust valve etc. is included in the switching condition of the intake/exhaust valve in this case.

[0010] Invention concerning claim 3 is set to the control unit of the internal combustion engine of claim 2. An internal combustion engine 1 Two or more gas columns 3 (#1-#6), By suspending actuation of inlet-valve 3a of some gas columns 3 (#1-#3) of two or more gas columns 3 (#1-#6) at least according to operational status, it is characterized by having the **** device 4 in which operation of some gas columns 3 (#1-#3) is stopped.

[0011] With this configuration, completion of a change-over of actuation/halt of the inlet valve between all cylinder operation modes and **** operation mode etc. can be appropriately judged in the internal combustion engine having a **** device by the judgment of an operating state judging means. consequently, the case of the former which makes inlet-pipe internal pressure a parameter since invention of

claim 1 was described -- the judgment -- simplicity -- it can carry out with a quickly and sufficient precision.

[0012]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the desirable operation gestalt of this invention is explained to a detail, referring to a drawing. Drawing 1 shows the outline configuration of the judgment equipment by this operation gestalt, and the internal combustion engine which applied this.

[0013] it is shown in this drawing -- as -- this internal combustion engine (henceforth an "engine") 1 -- for example, a V type 6-cylinder type DOHC gasoline engine -- it is -- that right bank 2R -- the 1- the 3rd three gas column 3 (#1-#3) -- left bank 2L -- the 4- the 6th three gas column 3 (#4-#6) is formed, respectively.

The **** device 4 for performing operation by the **** operation mode mentioned later is formed in right bank 2R. In addition, in drawing 1, about the component prepared in common with each gas column 3, in order to avoid complicated-ization of a drawing, the 1st cylinder of a reference mark is given only to 3 (#1).

[0014] This **** device 4 is connected to the hydraulic pump (not shown) through Oilways 6a and 6b. Moreover, between the hydraulic pump and the **** device 4, the solenoid valves 7a and 7b for the object for inlet valves and exhaust valves are arranged. It connects with ECU5 mentioned later electrically, and Oilways 6a and 6b are opened [solenoid valves / these solenoid valves 7a and 7b are all the things of a normally closed mold, and] and closed, respectively by carrying out ON/OFF control by the driving signal from ECU5. That is, oil pressure is supplied to the **** device 4 from a hydraulic pump by opening Oilways 6a and 6b by solenoid valves 7a and 7b being turned on by each at the time of **** operation mode. thereby -- the 1- of right bank 2R -- by intercepting between inlet-valve 3a and air inlet cams (not shown) and between exhaust valve 3a and exhaust cams (not shown) in 3 (#1-#3), respectively, inlet-valve 3a and exhaust valve 3b of each gas column 3 will be in a idle state (closing condition), and the 3rd cylinder of an engine 1 is operated by **** operation mode.

[0015] On the other hand, at the time of all cylinder operation modes, contrary to the above, both the solenoid valves 7a and 7b are turned off, and supply of the oil pressure from the hydraulic pump to the **** device 4 is suspended by closing Oilways 6a and 6b. thereby -- the 1- of right bank 2R -- in 3 (#1-#3), cylinder [3rd] inlet-valve 3a and exhaust valve 3b of each gas column 3 will be in flight readiness by the cut off state between inlet-valve 3a and an air inlet cam and between exhaust valve 3b and an exhaust cam being canceled. Moreover, the cam shaft which prepared these air inlet cams and exhaust cams By connecting with the crankshaft 12 through the timing chain (not shown [both]), and opening and closing inlet-valve 3a and exhaust valve 3b to the timing of whenever [predetermined crank angle] according to rotation of a crankshaft 12 Combustion of 1 cycle by four actuation strokes of inhalation of air, compression, expansion, and exhaust air is performed in the combustion chamber (not shown) of a gas column 3.

[0016] Moreover, the inlet pipe 8 is connected to each gas column 3 (#1-#6) through inlet-manifold 8a. The injector 9 is attached in each tee 8b of inlet-manifold 8a so that the suction port (not shown) of each gas column 3 may be attended. Actuation and fuel injection duration TOUT of these injectors 9 are controlled by the driving signal from ECU5, and at the time of all cylinder operation modes, all the injectors 9 operate, a fuel is turned to each suction port and they inject it. On the other hand, at the time of **** operation mode, the fuel injection by three injectors 9 of right bank 2R is suspended.

[0017] As mentioned above, at the time of **** operation mode, three the 1st - the 3rd gas column 3 (#1-#3) of right bank 2R are stopped by a halt of inlet-valve 3a and exhaust valve 3b, and halt of the fuel injection of an injector 9. On the other hand, at the time of all cylinder operation modes, while six gas columns 3 (#1-#6) are operated altogether, these are operated in order of #1 ->#5 ->#3 ->#6 ->#2 ->#4.

[0018] Moreover, the ignition plug 10 and the cylinder internal pressure sensor 11 cylinder internal pressure detection means are formed in each gas column 3. Each point fire plug 10 is connected to ECU5 through the distributor (not shown), and the ignition timing IGLOG is controlled by the driving signal from ECU5. Moreover, each cylinder internal pressure sensor 11 is a thing piezoelectric-device type [for example,], detects the cylinder internal pressure PCYL which is a pressure in the combustion chamber (not shown) of a gas column 3, and sends the detecting signal to ECU5.

[0019] Moreover, the TDC sensor 13 and the gas column distinction sensor 14 are attached in the perimeter of a crankshaft 12. Rather than the top dead center (TDC) at the time of charging-stroke initiation of each gas column of an engine 1, the TDC sensor 13 is a location whenever [in front of a predetermined include angle / crank angle], and outputs a TDC signal pulse. ECU5 computes an engine speed NE from this TDC signal pulse. Moreover, the gas column distinction sensor 14 outputs the gas column distinction signal pulse CYL whenever [predetermined crank angle / of a specific gas column] in a location, and the signal pulse

CYL is also sent to ECU5.

[0020] Furthermore, the detecting signal showing the engine water temperature TW which is the temperature of the cooling water which circulates through the inside of the body of an engine 1 is inputted [from the absolute-pressure sensor 15 of inhalation of air formed in the downstream rather than the throttle valve (not shown) of an inlet pipe 2] into ECU5, respectively from the engine water temperature sensor 16 which the detecting signal showing the absolute pressure PBA of inhalation of air formed in the body of an engine 1.

[0021] ECU5 constitutes a volume-of-combustion-chamber calculation means, a pressure judging characteristic calculation means, and an operating state judging means in this operation gestalt. ECU5 consists of microcomputers which consist of an I/O interface, CPU, RAM, ROM (neither is illustrated), etc. The detecting signal from various sensors, such as the cylinder internal pressure sensor 11 mentioned above, is inputted into CPU, respectively, after A/D conversion and plastic surgery are made with an I/O interface. Based on these detecting signals, according to the control program beforehand memorized by ROM, CPU distinguishes the operational status of an engine 1 and performs various kinds of control processings based on the result.

[0022] By outputting a driving signal to solenoid valves 7a and 7b based on the result, CPU controls the **** device 4 and, specifically, performs a change-over of all cylinder operation modes and **** operation mode while it determines by any an engine 1 shall be operated between all cylinder operation modes and **** operation mode. Moreover, according to the detecting signal of the cylinder internal pressure sensor 11, as it mentions later, the actual switching condition of inlet-valve 3a and exhaust valve 3b is judged. Furthermore, further, according to the switching condition of inlet-valve 3a and exhaust valve 3b etc., the fuel injection duration TOUT of an injector 9 and the ignition timing IGLOG of an ignition plug 10 are calculated, and CPU outputs the operational status of an engine 1, the determined operation mode, and the driving signal based on the result.

[0023] Hereafter, judgment processing of the switching condition of inlet-valve 3a performed by ECU5 and exhaust valve 3b is explained, referring to drawing 2 - drawing 4. In this judgment processing, as shown in drawing 2 (a), in each actuation stroke of 1 combustion cycle, the cylinder internal pressure PCYL is sampled by whenever [two predetermined crank angle] by the cylinder internal pressure sensor 11, and it memorizes as the 1st and 2nd cylinder internal pressure PCYL1 and PCYL2, respectively. Moreover, the volume of the combustion chamber corresponding to these two crankshafts is computed as the 1st and 2nd volume of combustion chamber VCC1 and VCC2 (only an expansion stroke is shown in this drawing (a)).

[0024] Subsequently, between the 1st and 2nd cylinder internal pressure PCYL1 and PCYL2 for which it asked as mentioned above, and the 1st and 2nd volume of combustion chamber VCC1 and VCC2, the following relational expression (1) consists of the ability of the change of state in each actuation stroke to regard it as polytropic change in each actuation stroke.

$$\text{PCYL1 and } \text{VCC1m} = \text{PCYL2 and } \text{VCC2m} \dots (1)$$

Here, a value m is a polytrope (volume) characteristic (pressure judging characteristic) showing the change of state in each actuation stroke. A formula (2) will be realized, if a formula (1) can deform like degree type (1)' and the logarithm of the both sides of this formula (1)' is taken.

$$(\text{VCC1/VCC2})^m = \text{PCYL2/PCYL1} \dots (1)' \quad m = \log(\text{vcc1/vcc2}) \quad \text{PCYL2/PCYL1} \dots (2)$$

[0025] Subsequently, polytropic-index m of each actuation stroke is computed by applying the 1st and 2nd cylinder internal pressure PCYL1 and PCYL2 and the 1st and 2nd volume of combustion chamber VCC1 and VCC2 for which this formula (2) was asked in each actuation stroke. It is as follows when the range which this polytropic-index m can take is described for every operation mode with reference to drawing 2.
a. As shown in all cylinder operation mode (inlet-valve and exhaust valve actuation) drawing 2 (a), like a compression stroke and an expansion line, both inlet-valve 3a and exhaust valve 3b have closed, and the range of polytropic-index m is in agreement with the range (for example, $1.2 \leq m \leq 1.4$) which can usually be taken by the combustion chamber being closed. On the other hand, an inhalation-of-air line becomes a polytropic index m^{**0} in order to show the almost fixed pressure which the cylinder internal pressure PCYL $^{**}(\text{ed})$ to the pressure in an inlet pipe 8 or an exhaust pipe because inlet-valve 3a or exhaust valve 3b is open like an exhaust air line.

b. Since inlet-valve 3a and exhaust valve 3b stop and it changes according to a repetition of compression and expansion of the working medium to which the cylinder internal pressure PCYL existed before **** operation mode at the combustion chamber also in which actuation stroke of inhalation of air, compression, expansion, and exhaust air as shown in **** operation mode (inlet-valve and exhaust valve halt) drawing 2 (b), it is set to $1.2 \leq m \leq 1.4$.

c. When inlet-valve 3a is out of order to for example, **** operation mode directions, as for the condition of an inhalation-of-air valve action and exhaust valve ******, the case where exhaust valve 3b is out of order to all cylinder operation mode directions corresponds. in this case, while being set to $m^{**}0$ only like an inhalation-of-air line since the cylinder internal pressure PCYL serves as about 1 law as shown in drawing 2 (c), it is set to $1.2 \leq m \leq 1.4$ in other actuation strokes.

d. The condition of exhaust valve actuation and inlet-valve ***** is set to $1.2 \leq m \leq 1.4$ in other actuation strokes while it is set to $m^{**}0$ only like an exhaust air line contrary to the case of Above c as the case where inlet-valve 3a is out of order to all cylinder operation mode directions corresponds and it is shown in drawing 2 (d) when exhaust valve 3b is out of order to **** operation mode directions or.

[0026] When the behavior of polytropic-index m in four actuation pattern a-d of the above intake/exhaust valves 3a and 3b is summarized, it is as being shown in drawing 3 and drawing 4. That is, the combination of the actuation stroke set to $m^{**}0$ (or $1.2 \leq m \leq 1.4$) differs altogether between actuation pattern a-d.

Therefore, in this judgment processing, while setting up beforehand threshold A (for example, 1.0) which can judge the size of polytropic-index m, the actuation pattern of intake/exhaust valves 3a and 3b is judged for polytropic-index m computed in four actuation strokes with the combination of that comparison result [threshold A / respectively].

[0027] Thereby, the actuation pattern of intake/exhaust valves 3a and 3b can judge appropriately any of pattern a-d they are. For example, when $m < A$ (the double-plate column of drawing 4) is materialized by the inhalation-of-air line like an exhaust air line, the actuation pattern of intake/exhaust valves 3a and 3b can judge with their being all cylinder operation modes. In addition, although the above-mentioned explanation explained the actuation patterns c and d as a condition that inlet-valve 3a or exhaust valve 3b is out of order, it can also judge with the condition that the change-over of inlet-valve 3a or exhaust valve 3b is not completed at the time of the shift to all cylinder operation modes from **** operation mode. Therefore, according to this operation gestalt, discernment of all cylinder operation modes and **** operation mode, completion of a change-over of the intake/exhaust valves 3a and 3b between both operation modes, and existence of failure of intake/exhaust valves 3a and 3b can be appropriately judged by the above-mentioned technique.

[0028] Moreover, since the actuation pattern of intake/exhaust valves 3a and 3b is judged using polytropic-index m computed from the change condition of the cylinder internal pressure PCYL according to this operation gestalt, the judgment can be quickly performed with sufficient responsibility rather than the case of the former which makes inlet-pipe internal pressure a parameter. Furthermore, while being able to perform the judgment based on polytropic-index m simple using fixed threshold A as shown in the operation gestalt since whenever [engine-speed NE or throttle valve-opening] does not influence polytropic-index m directly, whenever [throttle valve-opening] can judge with a sufficient precision also in a big heavy load field. And according to the actuation pattern of the intake/exhaust valves 3a and 3b judged as mentioned above, optimization of those control can be attained by determining fuel injection duration TOUT, ignition timing IGLOG, etc.

[0029] In addition, this invention can be carried out in various modes, without being limited to the explained operation gestalt. For example, although detection of the cylinder internal pressure PCYL and calculation of volume of combustion chamber VCC are performed by whenever [two crank angle] in each actuation stroke, the number may be increased, polytropic-index m is computed in two points which adjoin each other in that case, and you may make it compute those averages with an operation gestalt. Moreover, although constant value was adopted as threshold A which judges the size of polytropic-index m, you may make it switch or amend this threshold A according to the parameter showing the operational status of an engine 1, for example, engine-speed NE, the absolute pressure PBA of inhalation of air, the engine water temperature TW, etc.

[0030] Moreover, although an operation gestalt is the example which applied this invention to the engine 1 equipped with the **** device 4, it is natural. [of this invention being applied to the judgment of failure of the intake/exhaust valve of an engine without a **** device] Furthermore, although the actuation pattern (switching condition) of intake/exhaust valves 3a and 3b is judged as an operating state of an engine 1 with the operation gestalt, it is possible not only this but to use the technique of this operation gestalt for the judgment of other operating states of an engine 1 suitably. In addition, it is possible to change the configuration of details suitably within the limits of the meaning of this invention.

[0031]

[Effect of the Invention] As explained in full detail above, the operating state judging equipment of the internal combustion engine of this invention has the effectiveness of simplicity, being able to judge with a

quickly and sufficient precision for the operating state of the internal combustion engine which makes the switching condition of an induction-exhaust valve representation.

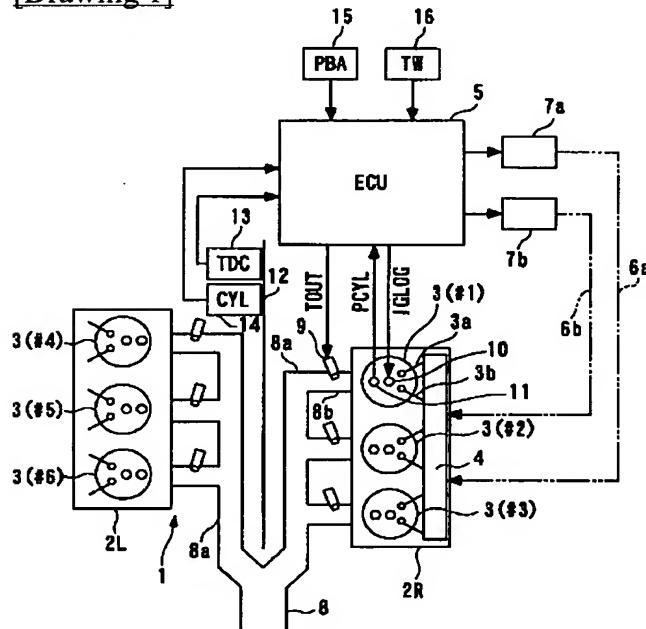
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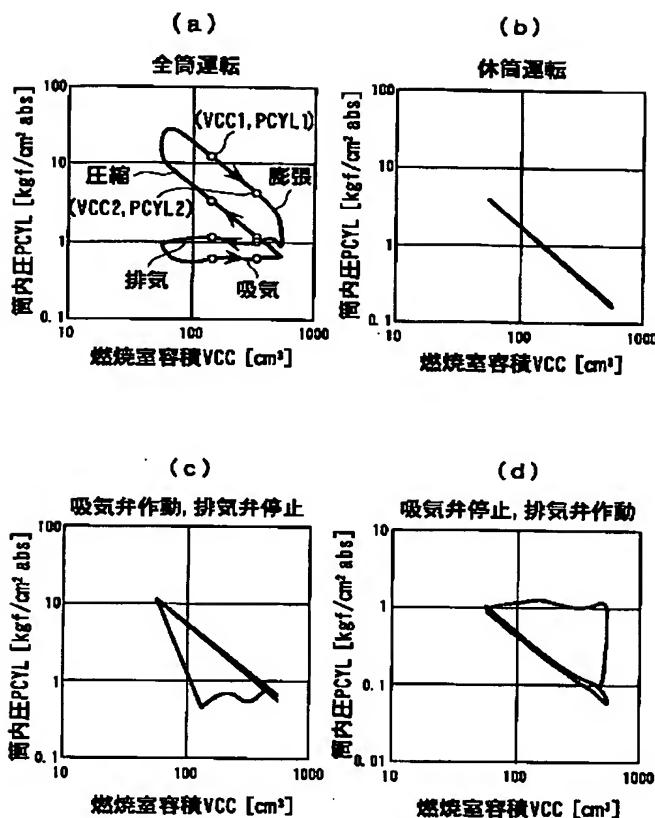
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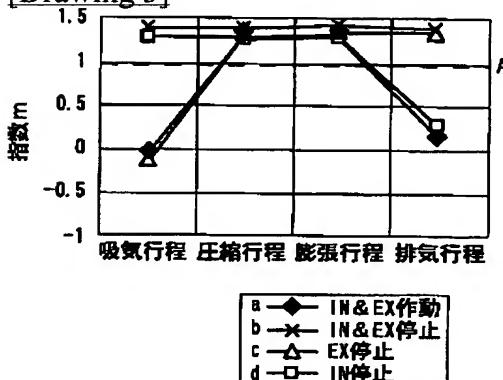
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DRAWINGS

[Drawing 1]**[Drawing 2]**



[Drawing 3]



- a —◆— IN & EX 作動
- b —×— IN & EX 停止
- c —△— EX 停止
- d —□— IN 停止

[Drawing 4]

	a 全筒	b 休筒	c 吸氣弁作動	d 排氣弁作動
吸氣弁	作動	停止	作動	停止
排氣弁	作動	停止	停止	作動
吸氣	$m < A$	$m \geq A$	$m < A$	$m \geq A$
圧縮	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$
膨張	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$
排氣	$m < A$	$m \geq A$	$m \geq A$	$m < A$

[Translation done.]